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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6766
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4233
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 956
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2519

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5833

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: ELECTION OUTCOME IN KIEN PHONG

REF: A) SAIGON 5252 B) SAIGON 5832

1. TRUONG DINH DZU CARRIED KIEN PHONG, THE ONLY DELTA PROVINCE WHICH GENERAL THIEU DID NOT WIN. THIS SURPRISING RESULT WAS ACHIEVED WITH 34,160 VOTES (37 PERCENT) TO THIEU'S 28,448 (30 PERCENT). NEXT HIGHEST CANDIDATE WAS HA THUC KY WITH 6,351 (7 PERCENT) FOLLOWED BY PHAN KHAC SUU WITH 4,850 (5 PERCENT). NGUYEN DINH QUAT ACTUALLY TOPPED HUONG, 3,933 TO 3,813 FOR FIFTH PLACE,

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IN KIEN PHONG.

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2. WIDEST MARGIN FOR DZU CAME IN DISTRICT WHICH INCLUDES PROVINCE CAPITAL OF CAO LANH WHERE HE MORE THAN DOUBLED THIEU VOTE. IN WHAT MAY BE MOST INSECURE DISTRICT IN A PROVINCE WHERE SECURITY IS POOR THROUGHOUT, THIEU BESTED DZU IN MY AN BY ALMOST THREE TO ONE. THUS ALTHOUGH IN KIEN PHONG SECURITY IS AT BEST FRAGILE, EVEN IN PROVINCE CAPITAL, DZU RAN BEST IN RELATIVELY MORE SECURE AREAS.

3. KIEN PHONG CHIEF OF POLICE ASCRIBES DZU VICTORY TO VIETCONG SUPPORT. LOCAL LEADER OF THE MAINLY HOA HAO SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WHOSE UPPER HOUSE LIST (NO. 10) ALSO RECORDED A SMASHING VICTORY IN KIEN PHONG, SAYS DZU DID WELL BECAUSE OF IMPACT OF HIS VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN.

4. ALTHOUGH THERE MAY HAVE BEEN VIET CONG SUPPORT FOR DZU IN KIEN PHONG, THIS HAS YET TO BE PROVEN. IT IS QUITE CONCEIVABLE THAT SOME VC CADRE WERE ATTRACTED BY DZU'S PEACE APPEAL AND OPPOSITIONIST IMAGE. HOWEVER, IN KIEN PHONG AS ELSEWHERE ONE CAN FIND OTHER LESS ESOTERIC

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EXPLANATIONS FOR DZU'S SHOWING: EFFICACY OF TAN DAI VIET ORGANIZATION, COMBINATION OF PEACE APPEAL AND IMAGE OF MOST VIGOROUS ANTI-GVN CANDIDATE, PLUS EFFECT OF RADIO AND TELEVISION IN BRINGINGCAMPAIGN TO THE VILLAGES. NEVERTHELESS, MYSTERY OF POOR HUONG SHOWING REMAINS TO BE EXPLAINED.

5. KIEM PHONG HAS A SUBSTANTIAL HOA HAO POPULATION. CAMPAIGN MANAGER FOR THE GVN TICKET WAS LOCAL HOA HAO LEADER NGUYEN VAN THO, WHO IS ALSO ONE OF KIEN PHONG'S TWO CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES. KIEN PHONG'S OTHER CA DEPUTY, BUI VAN KIEU, WAS TRAN VAN HOUNG'S LOCAL CAMPAIGN REPRESENTATIVE. KIEU, AN ACTIVE MAN, IS A BUDDHIST AND HAS ASSOCIATIONS WITH THE UNITED BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION (UBA), PROBABLY THE TRI QUANG FACTION.

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6. AS IN NEIGHBORING AN GIANG (REF B) SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY LIST NUMBER 10, LED BY PHAN BA CAM, WON HEAVILY. SDP LIST BZYTED THREE "COCONUT" SLATES BACKED BY TUOI FACTION OF HOA HAO AND LIST NUMBER 2, WHICH INCLUDED TUONG FACTION HOA HAO ACTIVISTS LE PHUOC SANG AND LE QUANG LIEM, BY BETTER THAN FIVE TO THREE. WE CAN

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ONLY SPECULATE ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF CONNECTION BETWEEN CAM AND DZU, WHO SHARE COMMON POSTURE OF STUBBORN AND IN MANY WAYS UNCONSTRUCTIVE OPPOSITION TO GVN, ESPECIALLY TO PRIME MINISTER KY. IT IS, HOWEVER, WORTH NOTING THAT MAN WHO CARRIED RESPONSIBILITY FOR HUONG CAMPAIGN IN KIEM PHONG, AND THEREFORE FOR HUONG'S DEFEAT THERE, MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH UBA FANDION WHICH, ACCORDING TO SOME REPORTS, ALSO PROVIDED PHAN BA CAM'S LIST WITH VITUALLY NEEDED SUPPORT IN I CORPS. WE WONDER WHETHER IN BYZENTINE INTRICACIES OF LOCAL POLITICS CAM (AND DZU) DID NOT TOGETHER SOMEHOW BENEFIT FROM FACT THAT CHIEF HUONG REPRESENTATIVE BUI VAN KIEU IS ALSO AN ARDENT OPPOSITIONIST.

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